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Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 14 June 1989, at 3 p.m.

President: Mr. PIBULSONGGRAM (Thailand)

later: Mr. KUFUOR (Ghana)
Mr. POPESCU (Romania)
Mr. SALAZAR-SANCISI (Ecuador)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

POLICY REVIEW: THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME IN THE 1990s
(continued) (DP/1989/14 and 25)

1. Mr. COLLINS (Liberia) said that the negative international economic climate, coupled with domestic problems such as unchecked population growth, inappropriate economic policies, political unrest and natural disasters, had had a most severe impact on Africa. In almost all African countries the per capita gross domestic product and export earnings had substantially diminished between 1980 and 1987. A recent World Bank/UNDP report indicated that capital flows to Africa had been declining and Africa's debt burden was much more severe than that of other regions. In view of the difficult challenges facing African countries, the international community was proceeding with a plan of action to assist economic recovery and development in Africa. UNDP understood the critical economic situation of those countries and was in a strong position to respond to the challenges. Its technical co-operation mandate to promote self-reliance and the tripartite system were extremely important in that regard and his Government reaffirmed its commitment to them.
2. At a subregional meeting held in Botswana in 1988 to assess the role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, it had been recommended, inter alia, that UNDP should set up mechanisms for periodic meetings to facilitate the sharing of experience relating to the structural adjustment process, that the Programme should redouble its support for programmes concerning the social dimension of that process, and that UNDP should increase its support for countries that had undertaken structural adjustment while at the same time maintaining its neutrality and current policies. The Programme should continue its collaborative efforts with IMF and the World Bank without compromising its own mandate.
3. The social dimension should be an integral part of structural adjustment in order to reduce any negative effects on the most vulnerable sectors of the population and promote economic growth and social justice. At a time when resources were increasingly tied to the implementation of policy packages in adjustment programmes and when conditionalities were imposed in bilateral resource flows, UNDP must maintain the neutral character of its assistance and increase it through the national and regional IPFs. The national technical co-operation assessments and programmes (NaTCAPs) provided Governments with an up-to-date and reliable data base and a policy framework for future co-operation and promoted technical co-operation incorporating all sources of assistance. UNDP should give timely consideration to requests by Governments that wished to benefit from the NaTCAP exercise. The Programme should continue its current policy of encouraging Government execution of projects. Liberia supported the idea that attention should be given to women in all programmes and projects and called for more TCDC activities.

(Mr. Collins, Liberia)

4. His Government supported the proposals by the Administrator concerning the establishment of a United Nations Microproject Fund (Microfund) and the introduction of a development support service at the field level. African Governments should help UNDP recruit more African nationals and professional personnel to staff UNDP field offices in order to ensure continuity, co-ordination and monitoring of UNDP-funded projects. In Africa, utmost attention should be given to the screening process to ensure the selection of the most suitable candidates. With regard to the recruitment of foreign experts and consultants, Liberia fully supported the position of the African Group put forward by Ghana. In view of the short-term nature of the structural adjustment process, there was a need for strategic planning on a long-term basis. Liberia had already begun formulating its next socio-economic development plan and called upon UNDP to provide assistance.

5. Environmental degradation remained an acute problem in developing countries. There was growing concern about the dumping of nuclear and industrial wastes in the territories of developing countries. National legislation was required in order to eliminate that dangerous practice. It was gratifying to note that UNDP stressed programmes and projects to establish favourable conditions for private sector development. Adequate resources should be allocated for development activities in that sector. UNDP should act as a facilitator and catalyst in the 1990s, enabling countries to utilize scarce resources to meet national and global challenges and improve the quality of life for their peoples. Liberia was confident that UNDP had the potential to carry out that task. His Government appealed to countries with high per capita income to contribute generously to the Programme's activities to enable it to respond promptly to urgent international development problems.

6. Mr. POPESCU (Romania) said that one of the fundamental features of the contemporary world was the increasing gap between rich and poor resulting from the current negative international economic order. Most countries had become even poorer, while a small number had grown richer. That fundamental contradiction had brought about international instability and the general world crisis. UNDP had an important role to play in the 1990s in remedying that situation, eliminating underdevelopment and promoting a new international economic order. The United Nations system, including UNDP, was the most appropriate framework for undertaking effective measures to help developing countries participate in a general process of economic growth. The Programme should continue to function as the mechanism for promoting international co-operation, higher living standards, employment and economic and social progress in accordance with Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations.

7. The responsibility for achieving economic and social progress lay primarily with each developing country. Through the efforts of the Romanian people, his Government had implemented its development programmes and achieved progress in the economic and social field. The most recent proof of that was the fact that Romania had paid off all its external debts.

(Mr. Popescu, Romania)

8. International co-operation promoted such national efforts and enabled peoples to achieve development without external interference. UNDP should maintain its universal, voluntary and neutral character, which had ensured the Programme's strength and prestige over the years. Romania shared the view that there was no need for UNDP to advocate strongly the use of the private sector. The latter had always played a large role in UNDP activities by virtue of the number of experts hired and amount of equipment procured from private companies. Accordingly, the public sector should receive more attention in the future. In view of the universal character of UNDP, the composition of its professional and technical advisory staff should be based on the principle of equitable geographical representation.

9. Co-ordination should be an integral element of the United Nations system to improve its contribution to development. Support costs should become an instrument for stimulating high delivery rates to help developing countries achieve the objectives of their country programmes. As the co-ordination role of UNDP increased, the role of resident representatives should also increase. The expanded authority of the resident representatives was an important step towards simplifying project approval. UNDP should exercise its mandate without interference by any country or group of countries. The role of the Governing Council as the deciding force in shaping UNDP policy should be enhanced.

10. With regard to the preparation of the fifth programming cycle, Romania felt that the system of fixed five-year cycles should be maintained for the 1992-1996 programming cycle. The various thresholds established under Governing Council decision 85/16 should be revised to take account of the decline in the purchasing power of the United States dollar since 1983. The next IPF cycle should continue to give high priority to the least developed countries.

11. He commended the Administrator for his continuing efforts to bring about an increase in the flow of resources. It was hoped that the developed countries would meet their responsibilities in that common endeavour. Their unconditional commitment was crucial for the future of UNDP. He hoped that in the 1990s part of the expenditures released as a result of disarmament would be reallocated to UNDP to enhance economic and social development. In the mean time, every effort should be made to ensure the most efficient utilization of existing resources. A formula should be devised for making full use of all contributions, regardless of the currency in which they were made.

12. While recognizing the role of UNDP as the central funding agency for technical co-operation, his delegation had reservations with respect to the advisability of placing further autonomous funds under the Programme's exclusive control, which made resource allocation more cumbersome. The question of the venue for the sessions of the Governing Council was still being discussed. The possibility of holding sessions in recipient countries should not be excluded as it would give them an opportunity to see UNDP in action.

(Mr. Popescu, Romania)

13. He noted with satisfaction that 1988 had been another year of record growth in UNDP resources and programme expenditures. It would be useful in that regard to obtain information on global and regional delivery rates. The greater percentage share of equipment and training components was a positive trend. It was encouraging to see that the number of national experts had increased much faster than that of international experts. Romania was pleased to learn that UNDP would continue to focus on technology, the major engine of productivity and growth. That should be among the highest priorities in the 1990s and one of the most important components of the next programming cycle. He noted with satisfaction the rapid expansion of TCDC activities and hoped that the TCDC programming in the European developing countries would also increase.

14. General Assembly resolution 42/196 called for innovative, practical and effective measures to increase substantially the procurement from developing countries. In spite of increased direct purchasing in 1988, the percentage of equipment ordered from developing countries remained low. He hoped that intensive efforts would be made to improve that situation substantially by the end of the current IPF cycle.

15. Romania attached great importance to its co-operation with UNDP and was highly satisfied with the performance of the UNDP Office in Bucharest. It would like to see the Office's activities strengthened and consolidated for the benefit of both sides.

16. Mr. KANUNGO (India) said that UNDP participation in India's development programme had been long and fruitful. The Programme had generally taken the Government's priorities into consideration. Since achieving independence, India had built up a strong industrial infrastructure and had achieved self-sufficiency in food grains through increased agricultural productivity. His country had also tackled the problem of poverty through programmes to promote productive employment in rural areas.

17. India had given due consideration to the development of women and children as an integral part of its strategy and had sought to increase awareness levels among rural women and other vulnerable groups to enable them to be economically self-reliant and politically active. There was growing recognition that environmental protection must be viewed as an integral part of the development process. In their efforts to deal with environmental problems, developing countries required financial resources and non-commercial access to environmentally sound technologies, rather than new conditionalities in the provision of development assistance.

18. UNDP had made a valuable contribution by promoting technological co-operation in the development process. The Programme's success in that field was due largely to the enlightened nature of UNDP policies, its flexibility, universality, neutrality and its responsiveness to the policies and priorities of recipient countries. Because of those features, UNDP had been able to play an innovative and catalytic role in development. Its work in filling critical gaps in the

(Mr. Kanungo, India)

development process and enhancing the capability of developing countries to achieve self-reliance was commendable. Before contemplating any change in the role of UNDP, the Council should determine whether the existing role had outlived its utility. In that regard, it should not be forgotten that any expansion in the Programme's activities would place additional demands on the limited resources available to UNDP. It might be better to maintain the current approach, rather than undertake activities that could not be supported by adequate funding.

19. The country programme and the IPF framework took into account the various needs of recipient countries and their different levels of development. India agreed that the country programming process should continue to be a government-led exercise based on the principle that aid programming was an integral part of the national planning process. That issue was of central importance for all developing countries. UNDP country programmes should be based on the development priorities of the countries involved. Improving management practices should continue to be a major aspect of UNDP assistance.

20. It was encouraging to note the marked increase in the number of government-executed projects throughout the world in recent years. The initiatives taken by India in that regard had been rewarding. Government execution increased confidence in the implementing agencies and enabled them to absorb technology more easily. It was also more cost-effective and in keeping with the Programme's basic objective of capacity-building. His Government fully supported that trend.

21. His delegation believed that while it might be necessary, in certain critical areas and in given circumstances, for agencies to formulate and even execute projects, they should do so only where indigenous competence was not available. Even in such cases the aim of UNDP and the agency concerned should be to rapidly transfer management responsibility to the Government and the project authorities. Decreased reliance on agencies and an increased utilization of a country's own resources would be an index of UNDP's success in transferring technology to recipient countries. Furthermore, care should be taken to ensure that the percentage of agency costs was not allowed to become any higher and that there was a greater degree of agency accountability.

22. UNDP could do much more with regard to institution-building by assisting individual Governments and traditional executing agencies in contracting or subcontracting projects or parts of projects to institutions in developing countries. The establishment of the Information Referral System data base was an excellent beginning; it was commendable that the Office for Project Services had decided to use that data base as a source for institutions which could be short-listed for various projects and it was to be hoped that other executing agencies would do likewise.

23. Although the share of developing countries in the procurement of equipment and services for UNDP projects had been rising over the past couple of years, it was still proportionately low; there must be a greater emphasis on procurement from those countries so as to help them build up their own productive capabilities and skills.

(Mr. Kanungo, India)

24. UNDP should not try to develop separate projects aimed exclusively at one or other of the special concerns that had been emphasized recently in such areas as women in development, environmental protection, greater involvement of the private sector and non-governmental organizations, but should keep those aims in mind whenever formulating a project and try to build them into the project itself.
25. As to the question of assistance in settling regional issues, before formulating any project with regional implications, prior consultation should be undertaken with the Governments concerned; their express approval should be secured so as to ensure that such projects did not impinge on issues which were better resolved bilaterally.
26. His delegation would welcome any initiative leading to the strengthening of the capabilities and resources at the disposal of the resident representative at country level. However, reinforcement of country offices must be accompanied by decentralization from UNDP headquarters to the field offices, particularly the larger ones which had solid experience in managing international co-operation. Resident representatives should be given much more authority with regard to the appraisal and approval of projects and the selection of implementation modalities for project execution.
27. In the matter of aid co-ordination and policy guidance, UNDP already had well-defined objectives and should try to build on them. Informal but close interaction had developed between Governments and UNDP field offices. The dialogue and consultation between the Government of India and the UNDP office in Delhi was exemplified in the reports produced jointly by them on the third country programme review in February 1989. The informal nature of such dialogue should be protected; UNDP should not assume responsibilities for macroeconomic policy support on a structured basis.
28. Mr. BARAMOV (Observer for Bulgaria) said that nations should be able to attain a higher stage of social and economic development during the next decade as a result of lasting improvements in the political climate and the emergence of the new political thinking, progress in disarmament negotiations and good prospects of implementing the Soviet proposal on transferring part of the resources freed by disarmament to the developing countries to facilitate their socio-economic development. During the current decade, socio-economic indicators had deteriorated world wide, the foreign debt of the developing countries had increased to astronomical figures and there was increasing concern about the threat of ecological catastrophe. Bulgaria was deeply concerned about environmental protection issues and had hosted meetings on that subject at the European level. His delegation appreciated the high priority given in the Administrator's report to environmental issues but felt that environmental protection should be considered in close connection with the technologies applied in various countries.
29. Despite financial constraints during the third programming cycle, UNDP had made a significant contribution to resolving some of the problems of economic and social development of the developing countries in the 1980s. The guiding

(Mr. Baramov, Observer, Bulgaria)

principles laid down in the 1970 Consensus and in the New Dimensions decision had proved their efficiency in actual practice and should be maintained. UNDP must keep abreast of new developments and rise to the challenges of the final decade of the twentieth century, but no radical changes should be introduced. His delegation agreed that development could be successful only if it was approached in a comprehensive way rather than from a purely economic point of view. His delegation and others had repeatedly proposed that projects be discussed in the context of the general development of a given State or region, taking into account their contribution to resolving social issues and their impact on the environment. That approach should also be applied by all executing agencies. UNDP had the mandate to co-ordinate and require the adoption of such a comprehensive approach by bodies implementing the projects; whether the staff members of the UNDP resident representative offices and the secretariat were able to perform those functions competently was a matter to be judged by the administration.

30. On the question of establishing an information network and a related network of consultants, the introduction of new and modern technology would rapidly open up new and vast opportunities for the consumers of consultant services from the developing countries, especially if the information systems already developed by the specialized agencies were put to proper use. Those systems should be updated constantly through the joint efforts of all United Nations bodies; greater attention should be also paid to the qualifications of UNDP personnel and its specialized bodies by updating their knowledge and skills on a regular basis.

31. On the question of preparations for the fifth programming cycle (DP/1989/74), his delegation felt that it would be better to maintain the agreed-upon arrangements of 1985, perhaps with some changes, rather than having entirely new arrangements.

32. His delegation noted that the agenda of the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole sometimes included items on policy which were within the exclusive competence of the Council, resulting in unnecessary duplication of the Council's work. Since the group appeared to be moving away from its original mandate, his delegation had reservations about whether the group should continue.

33. On the issue of increasing the overhead costs paid for carrying out UNDP-funded projects, while it was true that when the United States dollar fell sharply the organizations stationed in Europe registered losses, there were a number of cases when the operational budget of the executing agencies was used to hire people who had nothing to do with the operational activities of UNDP. It was to be hoped that the working group set up to study the question would propose a radical solution.

34. His delegation believed that every project that might have consequences for the environment should be evaluated by an expert ecologist and that the ecological impact of new projects should be studied very carefully so that provision could be made in the project budgets for eliminating those consequences.

(Mr. Baramov, Observer, Bulgaria)

35. Bulgaria attached great importance to technical assistance to developing countries; despite unfavourable climatic and economic conditions in 1988, it had provided official economic aid amounting to 1.83 per cent of national income and trained some 7,800 foreigners. During the current programming cycle, Bulgaria had allocated resources from its IPF for outreach activities; if the experiment proved successful, it would be further developed during the fifth programming cycle.
36. Mr. SUAREZ (Cuba) said that the Council was meeting at a time of acute economic and social crisis. The developing countries had borne the brunt of the crisis in international economic relations in the 1980s, characterized by an unprecedented decline in commodity prices, which accounted for two thirds of the income of the third world, a constant deterioration in the terms of trade, and the rising external debt and debt-servicing burden which had become an insuperable obstacle to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean, an instrument for intervention in internal affairs and a destabilizing element of societies and of the international situation. The external debt was a highly political problem which required an urgent solution. The concept of the need to cancel the debt was slowly gaining acceptance. However, unless the underlying causes of the situation were eliminated, it would be impossible to resolve the crisis on a permanent basis; a new international economic order must be established.
37. The United Nations, in particular UNDP, must maintain a very balanced position regarding the various possible courses of development so that the peoples could choose freely the development option they considered most appropriate; if one development option was favoured to the detriment of others, UNDP could cease to be a universal body. His delegation reaffirmed its support for the 1970 Consensus and the New Dimensions decision. Development must be regarded as an integral process, with economic and social objectives that would ensure the effective participation of the peoples in the development process and in its benefits. His delegation could not support the new programming methods proposed for the allocation of financial resources, since they departed from the 1970 Consensus.
38. There was clearly a wide diversity of views on the future role of UNDP. In view of the importance of the future of UNDP for all countries and especially developing countries, no effort should be spared in the search for viable and lasting solutions which would modernize the role of UNDP but not change its nature or depart from its essential principles. It would therefore be useful to establish an intergovernmental working group to prepare a document for consideration at the special meeting in February 1990 which would meet the need to update UNDP and increase its efficiency without departing from the 1970 Consensus.
39. His delegation believed that the central resources for indicative planning figures must be strengthened; it did not support the proliferation of special funds or micro-funds. It agreed that more authority and decision-making powers should be granted to resident co-ordinators. It supported increased national capacity-building and government execution, without prejudice to the participation of the specialized agencies, whose experience should constitute an essential contribution to development. Developing countries should participate to a greater

(Mr. Suarez, Cuba)

extent in procurement and in providing experts for projects. Greater emphasis should be placed on the United Nations Volunteers programme (UNV) and on technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC). His delegation felt that no fundamental changes were needed in the formulation of country programmes.

40. The Administrator's desire to give priority to human development was commendable; however, his delegation was concerned that the initiative could be ineffective if its objective were only to mitigate the disastrous social effects of adjustment programmes and it became an additional condition for countries receiving resources for development.

41. His delegation could not support the President's proposal to take separate decisions on the two matters on which a consensus seemed possible. Those matters were closely related to the fifth programming cycle and should therefore be treated as a whole.

42. His delegation was not in agreement with the document concerning preparations for the fifth programming cycle (DP/1989/74); that document was based on principles and objectives on which there were no precedents or consensus and departed completely from the 1970 consensus.

43. Mr. PHOOFOLO (Observer for Lesotho) said that the 1980s would indeed be remembered as a decade of crisis, depression and lost opportunities for many developing countries. In the 1990s, UNDP must continue to operate within the established framework of technical co-operation principles laid down in the 1970 Consensus and the New Dimensions decision with a view to attaining improved programming quality, effectiveness, efficiency and impact. The tripartite nature of UNDP-supported technical co-operation remained valid. That co-operation continued to play a valuable and prominent role in the development of Lesotho's economy. Responsibility for the programming of technical co-operation must rest with recipient Governments. His delegation agreed that technical co-operation programming should be characterized by decentralization and country specificity, flexibility and responsiveness to prevailing and newly emerging developmental requirements.

44. For the future, there was room for improved effectiveness and efficiency in the way UNDP operated. The report on UNDP and world development by the year 2000 (DP/1989/14) revealed that developing countries shared a number of concerns; it was therefore to be expected that more of them would continue to turn to UNDP for assistance. His delegation agreed that developing countries must have improved human development and national capacity-building in order to be able to cope effectively with those challenges. Efforts by UNDP to provide increased support to developing countries in building their national capacity would help bring about a more efficient management of their economies which in turn would lead to the attainment of growth and self-reliant development. The priority areas for national capacity-building should therefore be those determined by national development plans and strategies. For Lesotho it was crucial that the planning and implementation capacity be considerably strengthened through additional technical

(Mr. Phoofolo, Observer, Lesotho)

assistance, particularly in view of the structural adjustment programme which the Government had embarked upon in mid-1988.

45. Developing countries also needed to develop their human capacity so that all persons could participate fully in the development process of their countries; that task called for concerted efforts between the developing countries and the international community. UNDP and other agencies must continue to support that endeavour, which had far-reaching implications for national planning and international co-operation. His delegation was encouraged to note that UNDP intended to make the fullest possible use of national expertise in its operational activities; that course had proved highly cost-effective. As to the proposals regarding the country programming process, his delegation believed that it should be a government-led exercise based on the principle that aid programming was an integral part of the national planning process.

46. In some instances, more effective responses to development issues could be obtained by adopting a regional, interregional or global approach. One such example was the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, under which the African countries had established priority goals and through which they would assume primary responsibility for their development. They still needed increased support from the international community and therefore welcomed United Nations efforts to help African Governments improve their economic management and development and resource mobilization. UNDP efforts to ensure maximum integration with country-level programmes and to work more closely with the regional commissions that had special expertise were encouraging.

47. UNDP should assist the developing countries, upon request, to strengthen their capacity to negotiate and execute structural adjustment programmes in such a way as not to harm their social sectors and disadvantaged groups. The African countries had produced a document proposing ways in which adjustment could be approached with due regard for the structural characteristics of their economies and for compatibility with the process of transformation, and he hoped that UNDP and the international community would use that document, when it came before the General Assembly, as a frame of reference for helping African countries that had structural adjustment programmes.

48. The aspirations of developing countries to build national collective self-reliance was reflected in TCDC activities, which should be more widely exploited in project implementation in order to help mobilize developing country capacities. UNDP should assist by strengthening the data base on technical capacities existing in developing countries.

49. The United Nations Volunteers programme was a unique and highly cost-effective mechanism for supplying developing countries with volunteer specialists and its projected expansion was encouraging. The proliferation of development aid organizations, special sector funds and projects had complicated the co-ordination of external assistance, which was the responsibility of the recipient Government. Co-ordination of external technical co-operation should be improved not only at the

(Mr. Phoofolo, Observer, Lesotho)

country level but also through better co-ordination among donors. UNDP was well qualified to perform that function.

50. Field offices played a critical role in ensuring the responsiveness of UNDP, and proper liaison and co-operation between UNDP and the agencies in the field must be established to avoid duplication of effort and help maximize the effectiveness of their respective contributions.

51. His delegation particularly appreciated the preferential allocation of IPF resources to LDCs and was grateful to generous donors. UNDP had contributed immensely to the development of his country, particularly by acting as a donor of last resort in areas where traditional development partners were either reluctant to help or indifferent to the country's pressing needs. He hoped that support would continue and even increase.

52. Mr. CHAUDHURY (Observer for Bangladesh) said that while living conditions in developing countries were likely to be unacceptable for the foreseeable future, in the least developed countries the chances were that they would be unbearable. LDCs therefore required the special attention of UNDP. The current allocation of 40 per cent of UNDP resources to LDCs must be increased and IPF allocation to those countries in the fifth programming cycle must be increased by at least 25 per cent in real terms. The Special Measures Fund for the Least Developed Countries and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) must also be reinforced.

53. His own country's development efforts were geared primarily to reducing poverty and creating rural employment through decentralization and strengthening the role of the private sector.

54. The Consensus of 1970 and the New Dimensions decision of 1975 continued to provide the legal and political framework for UNDP operations. The UNDP country programming process must be bolstered by strengthening the field offices. Development support services should employ nationals and UNDP should help fund local nationals to be used as experts by other international agencies, even if that meant waiving existing rules. The ceiling for the approval authority of resident representatives should be raised from \$750,000 to \$1 million starting with the fifth programming cycle. UNDP authorities must approve projects expeditiously without undermining quality, and recipient Governments had the right to decide projects in accordance with their national plans and priorities.

55. Many of the processes of environmental depredation were closely linked to poverty and unless basic human needs were satisfied in the less privileged countries the erosion of the environment would continue. UNDP could play a useful role in that connection by assisting with studies on disaster prevention and relief. Flood rehabilitation efforts in particular, a special concern to his own country, should continue to remain a priority for UNDP and the international community.

(Mr. Chaudhury, Observer, Bangladesh)

56. Government execution should be increased and UNDP could explore other ways of widening government participation in the execution process. UNDP should also promote the self-reliance of developing countries through the transfer of know-how and technology and the mobilization and use of existing national capacities. The full potential of TCDC, TOKTEN, UNV, government execution, local consultants, national experts and increased procurement from developing countries should be developed in the 1990s and there must be greater adjustment of regional programme activities to country-specific needs.

57. He welcomed the proposal for the establishment of a micro-fund to be administered by the resident representatives but felt that its funding should constitute an additionality and not come from Special Programme Resources (SPR). Supplementary grants for equipment, supplies and consulting services should be examined in the light of UNDP's mandate and not charged to the country IPF.

58. Governments should remain responsible for aid co-ordination at the country level and UNDP should continue to play its central funding and co-ordinating role and to stress national capacity-building.

59. UNDP would need more funds for the 1990s and he supported the call for a doubling of its resources in the fifth programming cycle.

60. Mr. VELOSO (Mozambique) said that his delegation continued to support the basic orientation of UNDP assistance to developing countries as laid down in the Consensus and New Dimensions resolutions but felt that UNDP must be made even more effective through greater flexibility, adaptability, simplification of procedures and rules, strengthening of technical and institutional capabilities and further decentralization. National capacity building and promotion of self-reliance were clear priorities for UNDP, which meant that it must make greater use of nationals and local institutions, promote government execution, support NaTCAP exercises and provide better training programmes so as to ensure that national authorities were involved in the identification and formulation of projects as well as in their implementation. New TCDC activities should also be encouraged because they made for cost-effectiveness and greater productivity.

61. His delegation strongly supported measures to strengthen UNDP field offices and to provide them with skilled, experienced and technically competent personnel. Flexibility and decentralization should be increased by giving the resident co-ordinator greater financial authority so as to enable him to perform his field-level activities expeditiously and efficiently.

62. UNDP needed adequate funding on a predictable basis and he therefore stressed the significance of the proposal for a doubling of resources in the fifth cycle. UNDP should also continue to pay special attention to LDCs and to the African countries in general. UNDP's welcome co-operation with regional and subregional economic organizations required more resources, flexibility and expediency in project formulation and implementation, as well as increased co-ordination, in order to make it more useful.

(Mr. Veloso, Mozambique)

63. UNDP needed an innovative approach to help Governments cope with emergencies and to support rehabilitation efforts and development activities in countries such as his own, which had launched an emergency programme and an economic rehabilitation programme to combat the devastating effects of a war of external aggression and economic destabilization. Those initiatives had been generously and successfully supported by the international community and he urged UNDP to support current efforts to link the two initiatives in areas such as agriculture, trade, transport, education and health.

64. UNDP should also expand its efforts to alleviate the social problems arising from structural adjustment programmes and other economic reform measures through activities ranging from the collection of data to assistance in the preparation of specific programmes and the organization of activities designed to mobilize resources to enable Governments to counteract the negative effects of adjustment. It should also play a more dynamic role in promoting food self-sufficiency.

65. The proposal concerning the micro-fund deserved further consideration.

66. Mr. MARX (German Democratic Republic) said that UNDP's responsiveness to the Governments' own development priorities, strategies and plans, its universality to and its voluntary nature were crucial to its success and ought to be preserved. Country programming should be directed by Governments, with UNDP filling the gaps when requested. The country programme document should describe the programme of UNDP assistance and indicate how it would be linked to other United Nations agencies contributing to the country's development. Yet the country programme could not serve as a frame of reference for all technical assistance to a country. UNDP should help strengthen the co-ordination capacities of Governments as an integral part of their own development efforts.

67. The current IPF system should be retained, with some possible improvements. More important, however, was the achieving predictability of assistance flows in support of longer-term development efforts. Given the voluntary nature of the Programme, funding targets could only be approximate. His Government remained concerned about the inadequate use of the portion of its voluntary contribution which had been made in national currency.

68. Regarding UNDP assistance to national liberation movements, the German Democratic Republic felt that continued assistance to Namibia was important and that the IPF for an independent Namibia should be determined in keeping with the universally applicable criteria and should not be lower than the total resources currently available to Namibia.

69. It would be appropriate to discontinue the Working Group of the Committee of the Whole, and possibly the Committee itself, since they had been usurping decision-making functions of the Governing Council, and to replace them by informal meetings of the Council. If a majority of members favoured retaining the Working Group, its activities must be restricted to preliminary discussion of programming matters other than country and intercountry programmes, in accordance with Council decision 85/17.

(Mr. Marx, German Democratic Republic)

70. UNDP's proven mode of work and its flexibility should be continued into the 1990s, albeit with greater efficiency.

71. Beyond that, it should be noted that development strategies could only be implemented in a peaceful world, and that the crucial goal must be to create peaceful conditions.

72. Mr. VALENZUELA (Spain) said that in the 1980s most developing countries had had to face declining growth rates and an external indebtedness that had plunged growing numbers of people below the poverty line and threatened the social and political stability of entire continents. If the 1980s was a decade lost for development, the projections for the 1990s were hardly encouraging.

73. There was a question as to whether UNDP was really the central funding mechanism for development within the United Nations. Even with a budget of over a billion dollars, its resources were modest compared to those of other multilateral institutions and even of some bilateral assistance programmes. The Administrator's report acknowledged that UNDP assistance was only a small part of all external assistance to developing countries, nor could the UNDP country programmes offer a broad enough frame of reference for the activities of the United Nations system as a whole, perhaps because of the decline in the relative proportion of UNDP funding. On the other hand all recognized the uniqueness of the Programme's multilateralism and political neutrality.

74. The two poles of reference for the consideration of UNDP's role in the 1990s were the sovereign will of recipient Governments, and the terms of the Consensus of 1970. In any case, reactions of delegations to the Administrator's proposals would necessarily be provisional, since any UNDP decisions would have to conform to the new international development strategy and take into account also the forthcoming triennial policy review of operational activities and the study by the group of experts on support-cost arrangements.

75. UNDP funds must, indeed, be substantially increased and Spain was ready to continue raising its contributions. However, the proposed doubling and tripling of funding goals for the fifth and sixth programming cycles respectively could not realistically be figured in terms only of contributions from the traditional donor countries, most of whom had serious public deficits. Spain therefore supported the Administrator's suggestion to explore at the same time the possibility of improving the Programme's administrative efficiency and impact which was as essential as its resources.

76. Those factors in turn were closely linked to the capacity of recipient Governments to administer their own development and extend their ability to absorb and co-ordinate the assistance they received, the ultimate aim of which must be to make the most economic use of available funds. That was indeed a matter of priority, which could be achieved by promoting a greater percentage of government-executed projects and a greater degree of TCDC.

(Mr. Valenzuela, Spain)

77. While his delegation felt that the current IPF system should be kept, it was intrigued by the proposal that a new variable, the indebtedness of countries with a relatively high GNP but a notably lower per capita income owing to debt-servicing, should be introduced into the calculations. The possibility should be carefully studied.

78. Mr. Kufuor (Ghana) took the Chair.

79. Mr. ESZTERGALYOS (Observer for Hungary) said that UNDP should remain a universal organization, and all efforts to widen the scope of its activities and increase its efficiency should be made in that context, without altering its mandate. UNDP must be given a greater role in co-ordinating multisectoral issues, with a particular focus on their macro-economic aspects, and both UNDP and the specialized agencies should deal with them in a wider context.

80. The long-term objective of sustainable development, which was the joint responsibility of the recipient and donor countries, should be given high priority, with external assistance playing a supplementary role in strengthening internal factors for development. UNDP should pay special attention to capacity-building and management and to the social and human aspects of development, and try to ease the effects of unavoidable structural adjustment.

81. Hungary welcomed the plan to strengthen the field offices, improve UNDP's country-specific activity and secure a rapid flow of information between field offices and headquarters. UNDP and the specialized agencies must also work more closely together in order to make best use of the available financial resources. While supporting an increased advisory role for UNDP in Government-executed projects, his delegation felt the tripartite arrangement must continue. There should be more recourse to national expertise from the developing and other IPF countries.

82. UNDP was less well known than some of the other agencies and, with a view to mobilizing support, it should find new ways of improving its public relations activities.

83. Mr. ALENCAR (Brazil) observed that during the 1980s, the developing countries' scarce savings had been used substantially to finance the growth or deficit of others. That had not happened by accident, but had been the result of a well-conceived scheme, misnamed "adjustment", to ensure that large sums were transferred over a short period of time to the creditors, regardless of the cost to the impoverished societies of the debtor countries. However, the success of the scheme had apparently contained the seeds of its own demise, and debtor country economies were showing signs of exhaustion. The 1990s must be a decade of development rather than stagnation and depression, a reversal of the existing situation. The people of the developing countries were pressing their Governments for a resumption of investment in growth and development. In the 1980s, social investment and programmes designed for institution-building, training, and transfer and absorption of technology had usually been the first victims of the so-called austerity measures.

(Mr. Alencar, Brazil)

84. Technical co-operation could indeed be an effective instrument to help bring the much needed turn-around in the economies of developing countries. The fundamental principles of UNDP universality and of the exclusive responsibility of recipient Governments for formulating national development plans, priorities and objectives was still valid. In fact, had it not been for adherence to those principles throughout the turbulent period of the 1980s, the damage to development would have been far greater.

85. His delegation agreed entirely with the trend towards increasing government-executed projects. The Brazilian Co-operation Agency was currently discussing a joint project with UNDP for establishing a project administration unit within the Agency. His delegation also agreed that UNDP should support efforts at national capacity-building. For that purpose, a substantial increase in the procurement of goods and services in the developing countries was essential, as was increased use of national experts in UNDP-supported projects. UNDP should also support the strengthening of institutional management capacities.

86. His own Government placed particular emphasis on the technological component of the programmes and projects supported by UNDP. In general, UNDP should act more decisively to foster the transfer of technology and the development in the developing countries of their own technological capability. In searching for innovative mechanisms, UNDP should not simply act as broker. Indeed, its role in supporting TCDC was basic. As a means of increasing the impact of TCDC projects, the co-financing procedures should allow greater flexibility with regard to trilateral projects. In addition, the transfer of valuable experiences from one developing country to another could be widened through novel arrangements involving a third partner, be it an international organization, a traditional donor or a financing institution. He proposed that UNDP should organize a meeting of interested countries to examine such new approaches to TCDC. Furthermore, TCDC projects would be more effective if carried out on an institution-to-institution basis rather than through individual expert missions.

87. The country programme should remain a corner-stone of technical co-operation. It provided an excellent opportunity for Governments to re-examine their policies and priorities and also establish systematic guidelines for future negotiations with external donors and enhance aid co-ordination. It was also the frame of reference for programming technical co-operation by the agencies of the United Nations system. Before alternative mechanisms were explored, efforts should be made to determine why the country programmes had been less than effective in fulfilling that frame-of-reference function.

88. His delegation had some doubts as to the appropriateness of the NaTCAPs exercises and round-table meetings, because they could allow a country's economic development policy-making to be influenced by multilateral agencies, thereby undermining the basic principle in the Consensus of 1970.

89. There should be closer co-ordination between resident representatives and Governments in the elaboration of the country programmes and in the harmonization

(Mr. Alencar, Brazil)

of agency procedures with those of the Government. But in all cases it was essential to preserve the principles that governed UNDP action.

90. UNDP field offices should be reinforced so that they could absorb some of the tasks currently performed at headquarters. The proposal to expand certain headquarters' functions needed more thought in view of their administrative and budgetary implications.

91. UNDP's central funding role must be increased by raising the level of the IPFs allocated to country programmes or by allocating additional resources through facilities within UNDP. While keeping a medium- and long-term perspective, UNDP action must be oriented towards helping countries find immediate answers to their problems.

92. Mr. CHIBA (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) said that, for those countries hardest hit by the debt crisis, particularly those of Africa and Latin America, the preceding decade had been one of disappointment and despair. As domestic and external development resources had fallen below the needs of rising populations, the struggle to remain financially solvent had taken precedence over campaigns against infant mortality, illiteracy, dire poverty and other social handicaps.

93. Female literacy in the developing countries of Asia currently stood at only 50 per cent, while in Africa, it was 35 per cent. The goal of harnessing women's energies for development, shared by all members of the Council, could be achieved only when girls and women were fully educated about the possibilities which existed for better lives and futures. However, due to the difficult process of adjustment, grants and investments in such sectors as education and health continued to have a low priority among the sectors receiving UNDP aid. The gap between rich and poor was as wide at the top of the education pyramid as it was at the bottom. The high technology and data processing revolutions had barely touched the poorest countries. If those countries were to join the mainstream of the international community, they must have support in filling the technology gaps.

94. Poverty, ignorance, hunger, disease and environmental degradation were a threat to all mankind. No better mechanism existed for tackling those ills than the United Nations development system. All parties to multilateral development agreed that a wider vision of development was not foolhardy; that compartmentalization and short-term "adjustment" offered no lasting solution; that economic and social factors could not be separated; and that multilateral and bilateral aid programmes could not work at cross purposes.

95. The creation of the United Nations system was a unique contribution of the twentieth century to the history of mankind. The next decade might determine whether or not it would be a major instrument for progress in the twenty-first century. UNDP was playing a central role in the renovation of the system. However, great care must be taken to revitalize and seek the fullest involvement of

(Mr. Chiba, UNESCO)

the United Nations agencies which were the vital components of the system. The United Nations development system must increasingly work as a team with UNDP as its leader.

96. Mr. ABDOUN (Sudan) said that the role of UNDP in the 1990s should be based on an international development strategy for the fourth United Nations development decade. It should conform to the aspirations of developing countries and the Consensus of 1970 and take into account the needs of the poorest States. Improved economic performance in the 1990s represented the greatest challenge in the context of both North-South and South-South co-operation.

97. African economies had since the early 1980s been devastated by external factors such as falling commodity prices, increasing indebtedness, net outflows of resources and complications in arranging external financing. It was thus more than ever vital that UNDP should play an active role in bringing about the necessary reforms and structural adjustments, ensuring close linkage between national and regional development plans and making developing countries more capable of resisting crises and emergencies. Particular priority should be accorded to national capacity-building. Field offices should also be strengthened and given greater authority. His delegation welcomed the proposal to appoint national experts to field offices as required.

98. His delegation also endorsed the Italian delegation's call for greater attention to the role of UNDP in development issues relating to refugees, migrants and natural disasters and believed that comprehensive procedures should be established for the purposes of rehabilitation and reconstruction in those areas.

99. The development challenges of the coming decade required that responsibility be shared among both rich and poor, with donor countries playing a major part in multilateral co-operation. His country's successful experience of co-operation with UNDP showed that programming based on development requirements and national priorities produced the desired results.

100. Mr. AGATHOCLEOUS (Cyprus) said that, in examining the role of UNDP in the 1990s and beyond, his delegation reaffirmed the principles of consensus, of UNDP's central funding and co-ordinating roles, and of neutrality and universality, which had marked the successful work of UNDP and promoted the attainment of its goals. UNDP continued to play an important role in many countries, even where the amount of external development resources was small, because it served as a catalyst in the country's development process.

101. His country, among others, could be cited as a success story for UNDP, with the effective mobilization of foreign and national human and financial resources in what had become a middle-income country. With the support and co-operation of UNDP, it had been possible to set up excellent research and technical institutions, which were training nationals from other developing countries in a setting similar to their own. The case of Cyprus showed that middle-income countries could become important partners in efforts to multiply the effects of technical co-operation in

(Mr. Agathocleous, Cyprus)

the next development decade. In that connection, it was necessary to examine ways of making the Programme's successful experience in some countries more widely available to other developing countries in similar circumstances.

102. The UNDP of the 1990s should be very flexible and able to adapt to each country's needs, in order to take into account both prevailing and newly emerging development requirements. He supported the call for increased resources to enable UNDP to carry out its important role over the next decade, as well as the proposals that it should concentrate on national capacity-building, strengthen its field offices and build up its research capability.

103. Mr. RUKIKAIRE (Uganda), reviewing his country's recent political history, said that, upon coming to power in 1986, the National Resistance Movement Government had embarked on economic recovery and development programmes of varying scope. In 1987, it had launched a plan for rehabilitating the key sectors in agriculture, industry, transport and the social infrastructure, which, together with macro-economic policy reforms, had reversed the long decline in the gross domestic product.

104. The donor response had been encouraging and two positive World Bank Consultative Group meetings had been held, but there was still a sizable funding gap. The future role of UNDP in his country should be seen in the context of what it could contribute to the objectives of self-sustained growth and development.

105. The debate on the major theme for the high-level segment of the current session and on the related question of the fifth programming cycle should provide an occasion for Member States to renew their commitment to multilateral economic co-operation in the 1990s, as well as highlight the need for a substantial increase in total UNDP resources.

106. The Administrator's report put forward important proposals which required clear guidelines from the Council. The economies of the developing countries had undergone a variety of changes in the preceding 20 years, and the need for a more responsive institution to meet changing technical assistance needs could not be overemphasized.

107. The concept of technical assistance as developed in the early 1960s, consisting largely of the dispatch of foreign personnel, was clearly no longer relevant. In certain areas, developing countries had achieved technical skills which made it uneconomic to continue to rely on expatriate personnel for project and programme execution. Furthermore, UNDP field offices did not need to be staffed with programme officers recruited only from overseas. Apart from the Resident Representatives, most of the professional staff should be recruited locally. The Administrator's proposal for the introduction of a development support service at the field level should be examined in that context. During the fifth programming cycle, recipient Governments should have the first option to execute each project in the country programme. Procedures and reporting requirements should be formulated to support government execution, while maintaining the need for proper financial accountability.

(Mr. Rukikaire, Uganda)

108. There was a need to recognize that counterpart funding was proving a serious obstacle to the success of development projects, and that donors should assume the full cost of projects in order to ensure their successful execution.

109. In strengthening the role of UNDP, there was a need to ensure that national development plans constituted the frame of reference. IPF resources during the fifth cycle should, therefore, be fully integrated into national development projects. That would eliminate the tendency to spread IPFs into too many projects and sectors and hence diminish their impact.

110. While the recent measures instituted by the Administrator had improved programme delivery, the approval and disbursement of resources for projects and programmes still needed to be significantly accelerated, perhaps through greater decentralization of decision-making, as well as guidelines for the procurement of equipment, goods and services. UNDP should play a leading role in the mobilization of non-core funds, especially through the round-table mechanism, and should help Governments to prepare technical development plans to be addressed by donors in the context of public sector investment programmes.

111. With regard to the preparation and distribution of the IPF for the fifth programming cycle, his delegation preferred to maintain the five-year cycle system, which was simple and well understood, and allowed more time for the implementation of projects. The Council should aim at a target growth rate of voluntary contributions of 16 per cent in real terms, as proposed by the Administrator. Although UNDP required a new and dynamic funding strategy focusing on the growth of core resources, the Council should also examine other supplementary co-financing arrangements. He supported the existing criteria for the distribution of country IPFs. The existing supplementary criteria should be reviewed to reflect the unique economic crisis facing the least developed countries, particularly those with land-locked or island status.

112. With regard to the role of UNDP in the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990, he was encouraged to see that UNDP was prepared to increase its efforts to mobilize additional resources for projects in Africa. However, the need for substantial additional efforts remained critical.

113. Mr. YUJNOVSKI (Argentina) said that discussions during the forty-third session of the General Assembly had drawn attention to two simultaneous but distinct processes. On the one hand, positive developments with respect to disarmament and world peace had provided the basis for a new phase of strong economic growth in the developed countries. Meanwhile, however, persistent inequalities had negative repercussions for the developing countries. In those countries external debt, falling export prices, deterioration in the terms of trade, the reduction of investment, and technological underdevelopment were causing acute poverty. In Latin America such factors posed a threat to the current unprecedented expansion of democracy.

(Mr. Yujnovski, Argentina)

114. Given the enormous progress made in the area of development strategy over the past 40 years it was gratifying to note that all were agreed on the need to strengthen the role of UNDP on the basis of co-operation for development rather than the outdated concepts of assistance and aid, and on the need to maintain the principles of the Consensus of 1970. In accordance with those principles, UNDP was operating in his country not as a mere assistance agency but as a provider of services giving rise to a cumulative improvement in quality. Although the country's IPF was low in relation to its overall resources, a substantial national programme had been established. Among the projects initiated under the guidance of UNDP had been those designed to strengthen public sector administration by means of loans from the World Bank. The preparation of investment projects was also a matter of priority. Action on the part of UNDP was accompanied either by direct bilateral co-operation or by multi-bilateral projects. The Programme had made a vital contribution to his Government's TCDC technical co-operation programme by mobilizing fresh resources in addition to those provided by the Government. UNDP had also helped to promote projects and contacts between his Government and the private sector by holding seminars and designing joint ventures with both industrialized and developing countries. It should not be forgotten, however, that all such co-operation activities remained inadequate in view of the general problems affecting Latin America.

115. His delegation shared the view that UNDP should be provided with more resources in order to function effectively as the central agency of the co-operation system on the basis of a development strategy ensuring greater equity and international stability. The basic principles of UNDP action should be maintained without abandoning the search for increased theoretical and practical creativity, administrative efficiency and satisfaction of the developing countries' needs.

116. Mr. DAZA (Observer for Chile) expressed appreciation for the technical assistance provided by UNDP in the 1980s. Referring to the report of the Administrator (DP/1989/14), he said that his delegation welcomed the suggestion that developing countries should implement projects gradually, with a view to utilizing their national capacities appropriately. The situation of the specialized executing agencies must not be overlooked, for those agencies relied on a 13-per-cent contribution from the Programme. A formula must be worked out in consultation with the agencies whose budget shortfalls were generally ultimately covered by member States.

117. Referring to the new arrangements implemented by the Administrator, he said that co-financing by Governments - which was synonymous with direct cost-sharing - should not be a prerequisite for project approval. Chile had successfully implemented a system of indirect cost-sharing, in which the private sector participated in co-financing.

118. His delegation continued to have doubts about placing limits on the allocation of funds to developing countries on the basis of criteria which did not always reflect permanent situations. Countries with per capita gross national products

(Mr. Daza, Observer, Chile)

over \$US 3,000 should not be made to reimburse funds. The question of limiting resources must be discussed fully and openly in consultation with all recipient States. The Consensus of 1970 - the only basis for the effective functioning of UNDP - must be maintained. His delegation firmly supported the Administrator's suggestion with regard to "evaluation". In that connection, Chile had already allocated a percentage of its IPF to the follow-up of UNDP-financed national projects. As his delegation had indicated on earlier occasions, better utilization of available funds would be preferable to allocating additional funds to UNDP field offices. The use made of funds for regional and interregional projects should be reviewed in depth, as countries had little control over those funds.

119. As the fortieth anniversary of UNDP drew near, UNDP's positive contribution to multilateral economic co-operation should be recalled. That co-operation represented a commitment which transcended the ideologies of the Organization's Member States.

120. Chile had always been an enthusiastic supporter of UNDP. In January 1989 a meeting had been held at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean in Santiago concerning the implementation of Chile's fourth national technical co-operation programme. The highly successful programme had innovative features, including the concentration of resources on scientific and technological development and broad participation by both the public and the private sector in project selection, design and execution. The mid-term review of Chile's technical co-operation programme showed that 72 per cent of the projects identified during the programming exercise were being implemented. The report also brought out the high degree of participation by the production sector, one of the programmes most salient features, which had made it possible to cut costs and accelerate project execution.

121. Mr. MUDENGE (Zimbabwe) said that, despite the general relaxation of tension in the international political environment, the world's acute economic crisis had shown no signs of abating. Multilateral institutions, including UNDP, would have to prepare themselves properly if they were to deal with the challenges of the coming decade. At the same time, his delegation, like others, wished to reaffirm the continuing validity of the Programme's mandate and the principles embodied in the Consensus of 1970.

122. Throughout the 1980s, developing countries had been forced to use their limited resources to deal with indebtedness, environmental degradation, poverty and unemployment, thus postponing the fulfilment of their long-term economic objectives. Those problems, which were currently beyond the capacity of such countries to solve on their own, were likely to persist in the 1990s unless urgent measures were taken. The difficulties had been most acute in Africa, where the need for increased international assistance remained as pressing as ever. Despite the commendable initiatives which it had already undertaken, UNDP would have to address such problems in a more effective and innovative manner in the future.

(Mr. Mudenge, Zimbabwe)

123. His delegation concurred with the Administrator's emphasis on improved human development and national capacity-building. Development of the requisite human resources would promote and facilitate the attainment by developing countries of self-sufficiency and self-reliance. Noting the importance of TCDC, his Government wished to see more resources directed towards programmes in that area and believed that more attention should be paid to strengthening information flows and institutional links among developing countries. A directory of development consultants for all consultancy firms in Zimbabwe and other countries of the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference had recently been published. That directory could serve as a source of potential expertise for other developing countries and might facilitate increased recourse by UNDP to local expertise in the implementation of UNDP-funded projects.

124. While noting the intention of UNDP to give priority to the management dimension of development, his delegation wished to stress that it remained the prerogative of the recipient countries themselves to determine their own development priorities and the areas in which UNDP co-operation was required. Sight should not be lost of the need to foster more self-reliant development. His country had decentralized planning to the extent that people at all levels were free to participate in the decision-making process. In order to ensure such participation, there was a need for more training programmes for rural people, and particularly for women, in the future.

125. The proposal of the Administrator to the effect that the resources available to UNDP should be doubled during the next cycle merited serious consideration by the Council. With respect to the specific proposal to establish Development Support Services, his delegation endorsed the Administrator's view that nationals of a country could and should be used to enhance the UNDP contribution to the development process. Likewise, equitable geographical distribution representation should be ensured at all levels of operations and decision-making within the Programme. While field offices must be strengthened in order to ensure effective programme delivery, such strengthening should take full account of the tripartite arrangements characterizing UNDP technical assistance programmes. Subject to the Council's final determination of the role of UNDP in the 1990s, and to further elaboration and clarification by the Administrator, his delegation maintained an open mind on the initiative and wished to encourage its further development.

126. The Administrator should be commended on his initiative in commissioning base studies on the arrangements for independence in Namibia. Given the formidable challenges which would be faced by that newly independent nation, UNDP must prepare actively to assist the new Government in overcoming the historical, structural and other general developmental problems which it would inherit. At the same time, it should ensure that other crucially important ongoing projects were not disrupted during the transitional period. UNDP programmes, whether in Namibia or elsewhere, should be flexible and responsive to changing circumstances without detracting from the basic mandate and character of the Programme.

127. Mr. ADJOYI (Togo) said that a plan or programme of action adopted at the multilateral level had no chance of being fully implemented without real political will on the part of States, effective co-ordination of activities, active co-operation among the various partners and, in particular, sufficient financial backing. In the case of UNDP, the new programme directions for the 1990s should be carried out on the basis of predictable short-, medium- and long-term resources in order to avoid breaks and revisions which could jeopardize projects and programmes. The financing of UNDP activities remained a matter of central importance, and required that donor and recipient countries should share responsibilities. Donor countries should make long-term plans with regard to their contributions to UNDP activities and should support the consolidation of the special funds in order to enable UNDP to finance programmes involving a wide range of interdependent objectives.

128. Despite their limited financial resources, the recipient countries had always proved, through their contributions to operational activities, their commitment to those activities and their willingness to share, as far as possible, the responsibilities arising from the promotion of their development through multilateral co-operation. A greater number of recipient countries should contribute to UNDP activities in order to encourage donor countries to be more generous.

129. The preferential treatment accorded to the least developed countries deserved special attention in the light of those countries' urgent and growing needs. In that regard, the activities of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in the developing countries, including Togo, had been highly useful and effective. The financial base of the Fund must be strengthened in order to enable it to respond to the many urgent requests for assistance.

130. Although the directions recommended for the role of UNDP in world development to the year 2000 dealt with basic aspects of developing countries' economic and social policies, they should not exclude the sovereign right of recipient countries to choose the best and most appropriate ways of promoting well-being and progress. Donor countries should therefore take greater account of the concerns of the recipient countries and should become more flexible in their allocation of resources.

131. A central concern of the developing countries was to enhance the human dimension of the development process through planning for the development and rational use of human resources. However, such planning was becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible, because of the considerable political, economic and social costs of structural adjustment policies. UNDP assistance should therefore provide Governments with the means of integrating the human dimension in the creation and implementation of such policies.

132. The development and use of national capacities to plan and manage development was another essential aspect of efforts to promote economic growth. That implied the implementation of a macro-economic policy capable of generating sustainable growth. UNDP should therefore help Governments to reduce and pay their debt; adopt

(Mr. Adjoyi, Togo)

measures to attract and diversify external sources of financing; prevent the degradation of the environment; promote a dynamic interaction between the public and the private sectors; develop an industrial and commercial infrastructure capable of providing access to international markets; set up an infrastructure for promoting research and development, or consolidate existing infrastructures in that area; and control and exploit new and renewable sources of energy. Governments should also be provided with the means of executing programmes on their own; that would require the development of medium- and long-term technical training programmes.

133. His delegation supported the idea of calling upon the specialized agencies to contribute to project formulation and to aid UNDP in identifying the capacity of government services to execute a particular project. However, the inventory of existing technical capacities should be taken periodically in close co-operation with the Governments concerned. It would also be useful to include in long-term projects to be carried out by the specialized agencies activities which would lead to the gradual transfer to Governments of responsibility for project execution and management.

134. Lists of sources of supplies should be drawn up without discrimination and should include the largest possible number of developing countries capable of providing the required materials. The tendency to use national experts should be pursued and increased so that the proportion of such experts exceeded 50 per cent during the 1990s.

135. TCDC was increasingly becoming one of the ways of remedying the imperfections and inequalities of the current international economic system. Although the potential for such co-operation had not yet been fully exploited, it was encouraging to note the growing tendency to include the TCDC component in projects undertaken as part of country programmes. In order to promote and institutionalize that practice, it was absolutely essential to strengthen and update constantly, the data base on the technical means available in the developing countries. Information collected should be disseminated as widely as possible. The growing inclusion of the TCDC component in projects should encourage the transfer of technology among the more advanced developing countries and other developing countries.

136. The effectiveness and impact of UNDP activities depended, to a large extent, on the means and methods of action. Donor countries should therefore give greater support to the combined project and programme approach. In addition, Togo was in favour of setting up information networks to facilitate the comparison of data, promoting exchanges of experience and know-how among the developing countries and reinforcing co-ordination between Headquarters and the regional bureaux; strengthening the human resources of the field offices in order to enable them to carry out their responsibilities in an effective manner; and the creation by Governments of co-ordinating committees in which all local donors would be represented.

137. Mr. WIESEBACH (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) said that, if they were to be successful, country programmes must draw on the expertise of the United Nations system in the preparatory, implementation and evaluation phases. A number of other mechanisms, such as NatCAPs, round-tables and consultative group meetings, could enhance that process. So far, the specialized agencies had been only marginally involved in those activities. The full participation of all partners of the tripartite system in such exercises was essential for the development and implementation of country programmes tailored to the requirements of developing countries. In view of the important role of the World Bank and some of the regional banks in policy formulation, structural adjustment and technical co-operation, similar arrangements should be discussed among UNDP, the specialized agencies and the international financial institutions.

138. A crucial feature of programming in the 1990s would undoubtedly be the greater emphasis on sectoral, subsectoral and thematic programming rather than the project-by-project approach of the past. Broader programming might require dividing the country programme into two phases: the first, a macro-analysis where decisions on major sectors to be pursued further would be taken, and the second, an in-depth sectoral analysis. Full use of the extensive sectoral knowledge in specialized agencies should be made in an approach of that nature. UNIDO had already laid the foundation, through the introduction of integrated sectoral programming, which would allow its full participation in such a process.

139. In the fourth programming cycle, an attempt had been made to take account of the activities of bilateral donors and non-governmental organizations in the country programming process. A more intensive dialogue of UNDP and the specialized agencies with donors would help to establish joint approaches in specific countries and sectors. In that regard, UNIDO had doubts regarding paragraph 77 (b) of the Administrator's report (DP/1989/14). If UNDP really wanted to remain in the centre of the country programming process, it should not isolate its country programme document from that very process. Its capacity in the field and in its regional bureaux should be at the disposal of the whole system.

140. In the 1990s, Governments would play an increasingly important role in the implementation of projects and programmes. That development could serve to enhance the partnership between Governments, UNDP and the specialized agencies. Agency execution and government execution should not be seen as separate or conflicting processes but rather as a joint venture. As delegates had suggested in informal consultations, new co-operative forms of project preparation and implementation would be required. Every programme and project should be designed and conducted with a view to ensuring the full involvement of Governments and enhancing the capacity for government execution during the project. Every project should, at its completion, have led to 100 per cent government execution. The course of the project cycle therefore needed to be re-examined in order to ensure the sustainability of the projects. Government execution might require an approach in which a project was designed and executed with the expertise of a specialized agency so that a gradual transfer of responsibility for project execution took place, ending with the full capability of the Government to continue the activity on its own. That might place a heavy demand on the Government, which alone would

(Mr. Wiesebach, UNIDO)

fully justify the initial involvement of the specialized agency. Such projects should be subjected to the same rigorous evaluation procedures as any other project. During the ongoing work on support costs, the question of compensating executing agencies for their involvement in government-executed projects should be examined.

141. UNIDO had serious reservations about separating the project formulation exercise from project implementation, as suggested in paragraph 88 of the Administrator's report. Technical assistance was not a standardized activity but needed to be carefully adapted to the needs of each individual case. Divorcing the design from implementation would lead to a fragmentation of experience and destroy the necessary feedback between project formulation and implementation.

142. Co-ordination, especially in the field, was a weak point, and all parties shared some of the responsibility for that state of affairs. The key question seemed to be how to enhance leadership in the field by a person representing the United Nations system and having genuine powers to co-ordinate its activities. Emphasis should not be placed on the creation of additional management mechanisms in the field; rather, it should be given to channelling the technical and managerial expertise available in the field and at the headquarters of UNDP and the executing agencies into a single coherent programme for the developing country.

143. The study of successor arrangements to agency support costs was particularly important. As a recent study undertaken by UNIDO demonstrated, the current situation was unsatisfactory and disadvantageous to developing countries. The United Nations was currently addressing a number of other issues which would have a bearing on the conduct of operational activities. It would be regrettable if the governing bodies of the various agencies of the United Nations were to take decisions that would not be in harmony with each other or would even lead to contradictory policies.

144. The growing partnership between UNDP and UNIDO in serving developing countries was best measured in terms of the quality and quantity of the UNIDO technical assistance programme which, as more developing countries recognized the potential of industry for generating economic and social growth, had considerably extended its scope to include new forms of co-operation. That positive trend, which had begun two years ago, had continued quite clearly during the current year. There was every reason to believe that that mutually beneficial partnership would be further strengthened in the future.

145. Mr. SALAZAR-SANCISI (Ecuador) took the Chair.

146. Mrs. BRUGGEMANN (World Health Organization), said that, in terms of health and life expectancy, the gap between the developing and industrialized countries had widened in the 1980s. Life expectancy, which was closely related to infant mortality, averaged 73 years in the industrialized world, but not more than 48 years in the least developed countries. Maternal mortality was among the leading cause of death for women of child-bearing age in most developing countries,

(Mrs. Bruggemann, WHO)

with developing countries accounting for about 99 per cent of all maternal deaths. Although recent political developments and peace efforts would have a positive effect on public health, in developing countries, much remained to be done. In particular, the social costs of economic development would have to be monitored continuously.

147. A number of initiatives since 1985 had laid the groundwork for development efforts in the 1990s. Of particular importance were the Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, the Talloires Declaration, which established specific immunization targets to be achieved by the year 2000; the Safe Motherhood Initiative, which accorded high priority to reducing maternal mortality and morbidity; and the International Conference on Better Health for Women and Children through Family Planning. Combined with major health conferences held in London and Ottawa in 1988, such initiatives complemented the Strategy of Health for All by the Year 2000, adopted by the member States of WHO.

148. WHO/UNDP collaboration at the global, interregional and country level continued to be strong, particularly in such areas as the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), tropical disease research, the control of diarrhoeal diseases, vaccine development and research, water sanitation and primary health care. WHO had participated actively in the formal and informal consultations on the UNDP paper which discussed the Programme's role in world development by the year 2000. WHO concurred with the outcome of the formal consultations, as summarized by the President in document DP/1989/25, and hoped that the consultation process would be continued in studies on the future role of the United Nations system as a whole. System-wide experience should be more fully reflected in analyses of development priorities, particularly with respect to human resources development.

149. In the 1990s, WHO would concentrate on implementing the concepts of Health for All based on primary health care. It would reorient its technical co-operation activities in order to address several practical difficulties that had been encountered. Chief among those difficulties were insufficient national resources, insufficient external collaboration and weaknesses in the organization, management and financing of national health systems. Special attention must be focused on raising national capabilities in the last area, and in health technology, selection, adaptation and delivery, and scientific research. The rational allocation and use of available resources and innovative approaches to health financing would be essential. The relationship between structure and function within WHO and at the national level must also be rationalized. WHO would play a more active role in developing health policy and channelling the efforts and resources of all external partners.

150. Mr. Pibulsonggram (Thailand) resumed the Chair.

151. Mr. ALIKHAN (World Intellectual Property Organization) said that the substantial increase in UNDP projects executed by WIPO reflected the growing importance attached by developing countries to the intellectual property system as

(Mr. Alikhan, WIPO)

a vehicle of development. That was particularly true with respect to the promotion and protection of industrial property for the development of indigenous creativity, the transfer of technology and the development of industry and trade.

152. WIPO welcomed the Programme's emphasis on reinforcing the national capacities of developing countries. In recent years, WIPO had devoted considerable attention to establishing or strengthening national infrastructures and making them responsive to end-users, such as the industrial establishment, research and development institutions, inventors' organizations and authors in developing countries.

153. WIPO shared the concern expressed by the Administrator regarding world development in the 1980s and the challenges of the future. WIPO pledged its full support to improving the United Nations development system. It would continue to offer its technical expertise within the framework of developing countries' own strategies and priorities and in co-ordination with UNDP.

The meeting rose at 8.45 p.m.